

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 101

BY REPRESENTATIVES ARMES, ABRAMSON, ADAMS, ANDERS, ARNOLD, BADON, BARRAS, BARROW, BERTHELOT, BILLIOT, STUART BISHOP, WESLEY BISHOP, BOUIE, BROADWATER, BROWN, BURFORD, HENRY BURNS, TIM BURNS, BURRELL, CARMODY, CARTER, CHANEY, CONNICK, COX, CROMER, DANAHAY, DOVE, EDWARDS, FANNIN, FOIL, FRANKLIN, GAINES, GAROFALO, GEYMANN, GISCLAIR, GUILLORY, GUINN, HALL, HARRIS, HARRISON, HAVARD, HAZEL, HENRY, HENSGENS, HILL, HODGES, HOFFMANN, HOLLIS, HONORE, HOWARD, HUNTER, HUVAL, IVEY, JACKSON, JAMES, JEFFERSON, MIKE JOHNSON, ROBERT JOHNSON, JONES, KLECKLEY, LAMBERT, NANCY LANDRY, TERRY LANDRY, LEBAS, LEGER, LEOPOLD, LOPINTO, LORUSSO, MACK, MIGUEZ, MILLER, MONTOUCET, MORENO, JAY MORRIS, JIM MORRIS, NORTON, ORTEGO, OURSO, PEARSON, PIERRE, PONTI, POPE, PRICE, PUGH, PYLANT, REYNOLDS, RICHARD, RITCHIE, ROBIDEAUX, SCHEXNAYDER, SCHRODER, SEABAUGH, SHADOIN, SIMON, SMITH, ST. GERMAIN, STOKES, TALBOT, THIBAUT, THIERRY, WHITNEY, ALFRED WILLIAMS, PATRICK WILLIAMS, WILLMOTT, AND WOODRUFF

MILITARY AFFAIRS: Requests United States Army and federal government to fully support and maintain Fort Polk at its present level of personnel and troops

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the governor of Louisiana to express support of the U.S. Armed
3 Services Active Duty, Reserve Component, and National Guard; to recognize the
4 impact of the military on Louisiana's economy; to resource adequately those efforts
5 designed to protect and promote the missions, quality of life, and economic viability
6 of Louisiana's military installation and defense communities.

7 WHEREAS, Moody Analytics' *Precis* lists the number one, four, and five largest
8 employers in Louisiana other than state government as Fort Polk, Barksdale Air Force Base,
9 and the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base; and

10 WHEREAS, the 2013 Statewide Military Economic Impact Analysis, commissioned
11 by the Louisiana Department of Economic Development, indicates an annual military
12 economic impact of \$8.7 billion to the Louisiana economy; and

1 WHEREAS, the military economy supports 82,800 jobs throughout Louisiana,
2 representing 4.35% of total state employment, annually contributes \$287.3 million in state
3 and local revenue, and represents 2.20% of Louisiana's gross domestic product; and

4 WHEREAS, the military economy is measurable in every region of Louisiana,
5 having an impact of: \$286 million in the Acadiana region, \$527 million in the Bayou region,
6 \$793 million in the Capital region, \$1.76 billion in Central Louisiana, \$141 million in
7 Northeast Louisiana, \$1.86 billion in Northwest Louisiana, \$2.86 billion in Southeast
8 Louisiana, and \$508 million in Southwest Louisiana; and

9 WHEREAS, Barksdale Air Force Base provides an annual impact of \$1.15 billion
10 to the Louisiana economy; and

11 WHEREAS, Fort Polk and the Joint Readiness Training Center provides an annual
12 impact of \$2.17 billion to the Louisiana economy; and

13 WHEREAS, the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base-New Orleans, based in Belle
14 Chasse, Louisiana, provides an annual \$573 million impact to the Louisiana economy; and

15 WHEREAS, the Marine Corps Support Facility-New Orleans, home of the Marine
16 Forces Reserve and Marine Forces North Commands, which combined are the largest
17 commands in the U.S. Marine Corps, provide an annual \$269 million impact to Louisiana's
18 economy; and

19 WHEREAS, the Space and Naval Warfare Systems (SPAWAR) Center Atlantic,
20 Detachment New Orleans, provides an annual impact of \$147 million to Louisiana's
21 economy; and

22 WHEREAS, the Louisiana National Guard provides an annual impact of \$694
23 million to Louisiana's economy; and

24 WHEREAS, the proposed fiscal year 2015 budget for the U.S. Department of
25 Defense will shrink by more than \$75 billion over the next two years and could shrink even
26 more pending full enactment of sequestration; and

27 WHEREAS, the proposed budget calls for reducing the size of the U.S. Army to as
28 low as 440,000 active duty soldiers from its current size of 520,000; and

29 WHEREAS, the proposed budget envisions a five percent reduction in the Army
30 National Guard and Army Reserve; and

1 WHEREAS, the U.S. Air Force proposes to eliminate the entire A-10 "Warthog"
2 fleet, having begun these cuts originally in 1992, then in 2005, and again in 2012, at
3 Louisiana military installations; and

4 WHEREAS, the fiscal year 2015 budget proposes a round of base closures and
5 realignments to occur in 2017; and

6 WHEREAS, these strategic cuts are applied to the U.S. Armed Forces across the
7 globe and these actions and the preceding actions have been felt in Louisiana; and

8 WHEREAS, in 2013, the U.S. Army's 2020 plan to reduce the force from 570,000
9 to 490,000 personnel threatened to eliminate the 4th Brigade Combat Team of the 10th
10 Mountain Division, the largest brigade at Fort Polk; and

11 WHEREAS, the U.S. Army's current Programmatic Environmental Assessment
12 continues to restructure the force to as low as 440,000 soldiers, thereby revisiting the
13 possibility of deep cuts at Fort Polk; and

14 WHEREAS, in 2012, the Air Force initiated cuts to the overall A-10 fleet, resulting
15 in the loss of approximately 500 personnel at Barksdale Air Force Base; and

16 WHEREAS, in 2012, the Air Force proposed to eliminate the 259th Air Traffic
17 Control Squadron of the Louisiana Air National Guard, which provides air traffic control
18 services to both civilian and military aircraft, particularly those in support of training
19 operations at Fort Polk; and

20 WHEREAS, in 2012, the U.S. Navy eliminated the VAW-77 "Night Wolves"
21 squadron of E-2s and its critical drug interdiction mission, resulting in the loss of
22 approximately 150 personnel; and

23 WHEREAS, the U.S. Navy VFA-204 "River Rattlers" squadron of F/A-18s continues
24 to experience persistent underfunding of maintenance requirement, potentially jeopardizing
25 the airworthiness and mission capability of the squadron, and potentially denying U.S. air
26 combat forces ideal adversarial training; and

27 WHEREAS, the U.S. Air Force proposes to eliminate three F-15s from the Louisiana
28 Air National Guard 159th Fighter Wing, which maintains the only Active Duty mission at the
29 Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base and is among only five Alert Missions in the United
30 States that remain on 24-hour standby to protect America's perimeter defenses; and

1 WHEREAS, SPAWAR instituted a rule in 2013 preventing Navy Working Capital
2 Fund enterprises like SPAWAR Detachment New Orleans from supporting mission
3 requirements of non-Navy federal programs and clients, including the Veterans
4 Administration; and

5 WHEREAS, force restructure and cuts to Louisiana- based personnel and assets have
6 largely occurred outside the bounds of congressional oversight or in the formal environment
7 of an official Base Realignment and Closure Commission; and

8 WHEREAS, unchallenged, these threats to operations and assets at Louisiana
9 installations will persist, potentially resulting in loss of personnel, assets, missions and
10 installations; and

11 WHEREAS, Louisiana's defense communities have struggled financially to meet the
12 challenge of these threats, and in some cases have been incapable of mounting any efforts
13 to challenge these threats.

14 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
15 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its support for the commitment, sacrifice, and
16 honor demonstrated by the service personnel of the United States Armed Services Active
17 Duty, Reserve Component, and National Guard.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature
19 of Louisiana does hereby recognize the irreplaceable impact of the military on the Louisiana
20 economy and that action to protect Louisiana's defense communities must be swift and
21 sufficient.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express
23 its support, and likewise urges the governor of Louisiana, to adequately resource those
24 efforts designed to protect and promote the missions, quality of life, and economic viability
25 of Louisiana's military installations and defense communities.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
27 Governor Bobby Jindal.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR Original

2015 Regular Session

Armes

Requests the governor to express support of the U.S. Armed Services Active Duty, Reserve Component and National Guard to adequately resource those efforts designed to protect and promote the missions, quality of life, and economic viability of Louisiana's military installations and defense communities.